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Approved For Release 2009/06/22 : CIA-RDP85M00158R000600010009-8

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Foreign Language
Training Committee

08 AUG 1983
FLTC-024-83
5 August 1983

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LOGGED

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM:
Executive Secretary, FLTC

SUBJECT: Draft Agenda for the August Meeting of the FLTC

1. Attached are the following:

- a. The draft minutes of the 29 June meeting of the FLTC.
- b. A draft agenda for the 31 August meeting.
- c. A copy of a Trip Report by (CIA) on a visit to La Jolla, California, for discussions with the JASON group on the feasibility of applying Machine Assisted Translation documents.
- d. Copies of the FLTC Monthly Reports for May and June to the DDCI.

2. Please advise me of any corrections or additions you wish made to the minutes of the 29 June meeting and any additions you wish made to the agenda for the 31 August meeting.

3. The August meeting will take place in Room 1S06,
 on Wednesday, 31 August at 1300 hours.

Attachments:

- A. Draft Minutes of 29 June Meeting
- B. Draft Agenda for 31 August Meeting
- C. Trip Report
- D. Copies of May/June Monthly Reports

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SUBJECT: Draft Agenda for the August Meeting of the FLTC

Distribution: (FLTC 024-83)

- 1 - Each FLTC Member
- 1 - FLTC Chrono
- 1 - ES/FLTC
- 1 - ICS Registry

ES/FLTC (2 Aug 83)

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Draft Minutes of 29 June Meeting of the FLTC

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman and the minutes of the 26 May meeting were accepted. [] reported on the activities of the Technology Subcommittee. CALICO (the Computer Assisted Language Learning and Instruction Consortium established jointly by NSA and Brigham Young University) is "off and running". The first quarterly Journal is at the press and an initial mailing of about 15,000 is contemplated. The Consortium's data base should be operational by the first of October. NSA has contributed \$10,000 toward the establishment of a satellite link between high school computers in Hawaii and Japan in conjunction with the University of Hawaii. Two week training is also being arranged for teachers of Spanish, Japanese, French, and German. These courses will utilize CAI for the study of both the language and society concerned. Finally, [] reported the Navy is somewhat interested in a Japanese MAT system being developed by the Weidner Corporation which NSA hopes to evaluate.

2. Mr. Craig Wilson, Chairman of the Education Subcommittee, reported that despite the zeroing out of \$26 million for FY 84 by the administration for Title VI funding for regional centers for foreign area studies, certain Congressmen are hoping not only to restore that amount but to raise it to about \$30.6 million. Mr. Wilson also reported on a bill being introduced by Rep. Paul Simon to provide some \$50 million for secondary schools for foreign language training in support of national defense. Finally, Mr. Wilson reported that the General Services Administration (GSA) has not abandoned its plan to declare excess and thus, possibly, sell some acreage at the Presidio of Monterey. Such a sale would have an adverse impact on DLI's expansion plans. The proposal is now being studied by the Federal Property Review Board and Mr. Wilson wished to advise the Committee that should the Board decide to support GSA, we might wish to alert the DCI and/or the DDCI and ask them to join with the Secretary of Defense in appealing such a decision.

3. [] Chairman of the Requirements Subcommittee, reported that upon receipt of the final data from the Department of State, and from NSA, he would, in conjunction with the Executive Secretary, attempt to consolidate and place in an IC Staff data bank, a record, by specific language and tested competence in reading, speaking, and listening (where applicable), for CIA, State, FBI, and NSA. As reliable data becomes available from DoD components, this would be added. He also reported on his conversations with Edward Knox, Director of the Sunderland Language Center at Middlebury College, Vermont, concerning the possibility of providing additional spaces for government-sponsored students and adding to their current roster of languages. Any such arrangement would depend upon a government guarantee as to the caliber of their students and their "sustainability". [] said that the FBI had been most satisfied with both the cost and effectiveness of the nine-week intensive language training FBI personnel had received at Middlebury and believed it would be useful for the Chairman and one or two other members of the Committee to discuss this matter in Middlebury with Dr. Knox. [] and other

Attachment A

to discuss this matter in Middlebury with Dr. Knox. [] and other Committee members spoke highly of Middlebury's training, but added that other institutions such as Norwich and the University of Northern Ohio had programs which might be equally responsive to Community specialized needs. The Chairman requested, and [] agreed, to attempt to arrange a visit for himself and one or two other Committee members to Middlebury in August.

4. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Jack Mendelsohn, Dean of the Foreign Service Institute's School of Language Studies, who replaced Mr. Pierre Shostal as State representative to the FLTC and Chairman of the Program Subcommittee. At the Chairman's request, Mr. Mendelsohn advised the Committee of the changes in personnel and course development made at the SLS as a result of the FTE (Full Time Equivalent) reductions. Attached is a list of those languages for which there will be workload reductions between May 30 and September 30, 1983. With the exception of Russian and Arabic, materials development projects will be suspended for the balance of FY 83. Because of the reductions, no new unscheduled training will take place, individual tutorials will not be given, but the SLS will broker contracts for State's Geographic Bureaus which require and can fund such individual tuition. The effects for FY 84 will not be too drastic although special training and out of cycle training will not be available. Minimum enrollment requirements will be enforced and only for the more difficult languages will two alternative starting dates be granted.

5. The Executive Secretary, [] Colonel Kirkpatrick (Army/ACSI), and Mr. Wilson briefed the Committee on the two-day meeting of the DoD-University Forum held in Monterey on 22-23 June. The Executive Secretary's Trip Report is appended.

6. [] (DIA) reported that DIA will enter into a contract with the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) for measuring the trends in usage of seldom taught languages of the Third World. This \$25,000 effort will build upon work already done by the CAL. Committee members agreed that the results of this survey could be of considerable value to the Community as well as DoD in formulating their requirements, and thus their training needs, for such languages.

7. In view of the holiday season, no July meeting was scheduled. The Executive Secretary will advise members of the date for the August meeting.

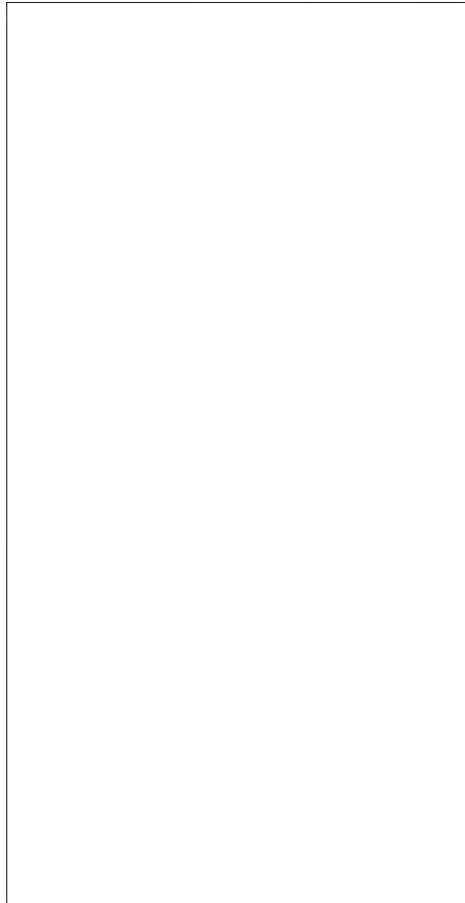
[]
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. List of Languages
2. Trip Report

Attendees - FLTC Meeting

29 June 1983



Chairman

Executive Secretary

Army

Army

FBI

Navy

DIA

State/FSI

OSD

CIA

NSA

OSD

STAT

FTE REDUCTIONS - LANGUAGES FOR WHICH THERE WILL BE STAFF WORKLOAD
REDUCTIONS BETWEEN MAY 30 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 1983*

ITALIAN	BULGARIAN
PORTUGUESE	SERBO-CROATIAN
JAPANESE	HINDI-URDU
KOREAN	BENGALI
TAGALOG	NEPALI
TURKISH	FINNISH
GREEK	ICELANDIC
INDONESIAN	CHINESE
HEBREW	VIETNAMESE
DARI	THAI
SWAHILI	LAO
HUNGARIAN	DUTCH
CZECH	

* Reductions in most languages to take effect June 24, when many classes graduate.

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Foreign Language
Training Committee

FLTC-020-83
8 July 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip Report - Monterey, California on 22-23 June 1983

1. On 22 and 23 June 1983, I attended a meeting of the Department of Defense-University Forum hosted by the Foreign Language Center (FLC) of the Defense Language Institute (DLI) at the Presidio of Monterey in California. There were two principal items on the agenda: (a) the status of the U.S. Army's contract with the Association of American Universities (AAU) to investigate the status of foreign language and area studies in American Universities and other academic institutions; (b) the proposal by the National Security Council (NSC) and the National Council on Foreign Language and International Studies to establish a "National Council on International Research and Manpower." Both these items are of concern to the Intelligence Community and have been the subject of memoranda to DD/ICS and the DDCI.

2. I am pleased to report that, partially as a result of the IC Staff's representations to the Army and other DoD elements, the AAU contract has now been so restructured as to meet all our concerns. The primary task of the AAU contract, to conduct research into the status of language and area studies in this country, is being carried out by a group of eminent scholars with expertise in the Soviet Bloc and Third World areas under the direction of Dr. Richard Lambert, Head of South East Asia Studies at the University of Illinois. These scholars have reviewed previous work in this field by such organizations as the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) and the Modern Language Association (MLA) and have attempted to ascertain the adequacy of "special resources" such as libraries and specialized research facilities. They have interviewed scholars who have graduated in foreign language and area studies and have tried to assess the degree to which specialized fields of research are "in jeopardy", either through a lack of funding or because of inadequate student enrollment. Their final report will not be issued for several months, but preliminary findings would indicate that university administrators are generally committed to foreign language and area studies programs; their subordinates, however, are less confident and fear that a reduction in the Department of Education's "Title VI" funding for regional centers for area and language studies might seriously curtail graduate studies in these fields. Although graduate departments in economics and sociology seem disinterested in international concerns, this is not apparently true for political science. Researchers were generally impressed with the quality of graduate students in foreign language and area studies.

Attachment 2

3. The interaction between researchers in the field of foreign language and area studies and government policymakers varies widely. The relationship of government funding for academic research to policymaking is a "double edged sword" with some academicians fearing that, should the fact of government funding become known, the entree of scholars to field research, particularly in the Third World, might be severely curtailed. Representatives of both the universities and the government at this meeting tended to agree that government funding, if granted, must not be concealed by some flimsy "cover" and that the source of funds must be openly acknowledged, if not widely broadcast. Private foundations plan to meet in the fall of 1983 to discuss the most effective means of funding academic research (including the use of government grants) in foreign language and area studies. At present there is no unanimity on this matter and academia's views on DoD or other government funding run the gamut from resistance to enthusiasm.

4. The AAU, with the concurrence of the Army, has awarded a subcontract to SRI International to assess the needs of the Department of Defense (and not the Community as a whole) for foreign area and language expertise. This work is being headed by Dr. William Bader, head of SRI's Washington office and former task force leader on the Church Committee.

5. Dr. Robert Ward, Director of the Center for Research in International Studies at Stanford University, briefed the meeting on the background of the proposal to establish a National Council on International Research and Manpower. Participants at the Monterey meeting, many of whom had attended the 28 April White House meeting, were, on the whole, skeptical of the desirability and feasibility of creating an umbrella organization under NSC sponsorship to effect proper coordination between government and academia for the funding of research in language and area studies of mutual interest to scholars and policymakers. The academic community feared that NSC sponsorship might be misconstrued by the academic community as well as by the governments of many countries in which American scholars do their field research. Although sponsorship by such organizations as the National Science Foundation, the National Council for Soviet and East European Research or the Smithsonian Institution's Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars might alleviate the "image" problem, participants were generally of the view that it would be best, for the present, to utilize existing mechanisms for government-academic cooperation rather than create a new organization. Moreover, it was feared that, should the Congress or the Administration grant the funding needed for a new organization, it might be at the expense of existing programs such as the Title VI regional study centers. It was finally agreed that the representatives of the academic community would discuss this matter further amongst themselves in an attempt to define a common position which could then be referred to the government representatives in the DoD-University Forum.

6. There was considerable discussion of the establishment by government agencies of proficiency standards to measure and test foreign language skills in reading, speaking, listening, and writing. A working group of the Interagency Language Round Table has been instrumental in establishing commonly understood and accepted levels of proficiency and standard tests against which these levels can be measured. As a result, a CIA attestation that an employee who has attended its Foreign Language School and attained a "2 plus" level in speaking Gulf Arabic would convey immediately to managers in NSA, the FBI or State (for example), the exact degree of that employee's competence according to commonly agreed standards. Such proficiency testing has not been commonly adopted on the campus and where testing does take place, standards vary. The representatives of universities and such organizations as the MLA and CAL welcomed the government initiative in establishing common standards for proficiency and testing and hope to benefit from the work which the ILR has done. In response to this need, the DLI is establishing a two-week training course for university personnel in the methodology of language training.

7. At the conclusion of the meeting, all participants expressed their satisfaction at the useful exchange of views between the representatives of government and academia through the medium of the DoD-University Forum and trusted that this practice would be continued. IC Staff participation at this meeting was of considerable benefit to the FLTC, and we trust, to other staff elements such as the Planning and Policy Staff.

Distribution

- 1 - DD/ICS
- 1 - FLTC Chrono
- 1 - ES/FLTC
- 1 - Chmn, FLTC

STAT

Draft Agenda for August FLTC Meeting

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman and Consideration of the Minutes of the June meeting.
2. Reports by Subcommittee Chairpersons
3. Report by the Executive Secretary on the present status of the Working Group investigating the application of MAT to Japanese scientific and technical documents.
4. Other items which members may wish to raise.

Attachment B

SDS Memo #83-12
19 July 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JASON Summer Session Study

1. FBIS's expectations that the JASON organization would provide a significant input to our continuing evaluation of machine translation technology and to the IC Staff's and DDI's search for a solution to the [REDACTED] issue were neutralized last week in La Jolla, Cal. Representatives from FBIS, ORD and OSO were disappointed to learn that due to a shortage of JASON human resources there would be no JASON Summer Session study of either Artificial Intelligence/Natural Language Processing topic which had been accepted by the JASON's at their Spring meeting:

for OSO - Use of Expert Systems to select messages of high interest
for FBIS - Application of natural language processing to machine translation. (Attachment A)

2. We have reviewed the chronology of events leading up to the announcement in La Jolla (see Attachment B) and are unable to determine when the status changed. The result, however, was that what the government had envisioned as a two day round table discussion/guidance session to initiate a major study effort was, on the JASON's calendar, planned as a two hour meeting.

3. In place of the expected studies, Donald LeVine, Executive Secretary of the JASONS, suggested to both FBIS and OSO that individual JASONS would be available during the academic year as consultants in the areas of interest. While a consultant will prove useful to FBIS in our long-range effort, OSO's problem requires an earlier solution. FBIS may have to perform our own technology survey and evaluation of [REDACTED] machine translation systems. The special working group established by the IC Staff's Foreign Language Training Committee and chaired by ORD to coordinate the exchange of information between the JASON's and the Community, can continue as a conduit for information.

4. FBIS found the discussions with JASONS Al Despain, Bill Press, Oscar Rothaus, Hal Lewis, and others in La Jolla to be very useful and plans to maintain contact with Al Despain. [REDACTED] who is overseeing the JASON contract for the DDS&T, has been informed of these developments and is attempting to clarify the situation.

When Separated from attachment

this memorandum can be classified "A"

JASON Study -

STATUS REPORT

28 January 1983 DDS&T staff requests nomination of topics for JASON Summer Study 1983.

25 February 1983 Both FBIS and OSO nominate projects related to Artificial Intelligence/ Natural Language Processing (AI/NLP). OSO's task relates to Expert Systems for message selection. FBIS's task is to determine the applicability of AI/ NLP to machine translation.

15 March 1983 JASON's Gordon MacDonald and Donald LeVine are briefed on the DDS&T projects.

31 March 1983 The AI/NLP tasks are accepted by the JASONS.

27 April 1983 JASON Spring Meeting

 FBIS briefed key JASONS on the background for our task, our current processing procedures and plans for modernization. Formal task description is attachment A.

20 May 1983 [] briefs the IC Staff
 Foreign Language Translation Committee (FLTC) on FBIS/JASON study plans and how they would support the IC Staff's effort to establish a community position on the development of machine translation, particularly for []

30 May 1983 Working Group created under the FLTC to coordinate community effort in machine translation and serve as conduit between the community and the JASONS. []
 [] ORD, is the chairman.

3 June 1983 [] contacts Gordon MacDonald in an effort to learn the status of the JASON Study. MacDonald says LeVine is coordinating plans and will call her.

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Attachment B

CONFIDENTIAL

13 June 1983

[redacted] finally gets in touch with LeVine. They agree that the week of 11 July looks good for the "initial study session." LeVine promises to send map and hotel info.

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11 July 1983

[redacted] (FBIS/SDS), [redacted] (FBIS/Prod), and [redacted] (OSO) meet with Al Despain, Bill Press, Oscar Rothaus and Hal Lewis in La Jolla. [redacted] ask Despain to clarify the purpose for this meeting. [redacted] briefs the group on the IC Staff interest in the study and requests that any discussion of the machine translation task be deferred until the 12th when the rest of her team is arriving.

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Despain explains that the JASONS have no people resources to apply to either topic during the summer session.

Rest of session is devoted to a general discussion of various "Expert System" approaches to OSO's topic.

12 July 1983

[redacted] (ORD) and [redacted] (FBIS/SDS) arrive in La Jolla.

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The five government representatives meet with JASONS Al Despain and Oscar Rothaus. Despain provides a useful introduction to AI/NLP R&D. [redacted] describes FBIS's Modernization Program.

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In an effort to clarify the "apparent" change in level of effort, the group met with Don LeVine. LeVine explained the JASON organization and their inability to respond to FBIS's and OSO's tasks as one of manpower shortages during the 6 week Summer Session. He offers the services of Despain and others on an ad-hoc basis during the academic year (through April 1984).

By Labor Day Despain agreed to provide both OSO and FBIS a letter memo with names of prominent researches and the status of applicable R&D.

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Foreign Language
Training Committee

FLTC-016-83

7 June 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM: [REDACTED]
Chairman

SUBJECT: FLTC Monthly Report--May 1983

1. A meeting of Intelligence Community representatives concerned with and knowledgeable in the developments of Machine-Assisted Translation (MAT) met under the sponsorship of the FLTC at the Community Headquarters Building on 20 May to discuss the formation of a working group to assess the feasibility of applying MAT to overtly acquired [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] In his opening remarks, C/FLTC advised the participants that the Committee had been charged by the Director of the Intelligence Community Staff with coordinating the responses to the DCI Guidance (FY 1985-89) "for the CIAP and the GDIP" to "submit coordinated program initiatives designed to improve the Community's capability to produce timely and accurate translations of [REDACTED] ... material through the ... utilization of ... machine-assisted translation technology". Moreover, the guidance also requested the CCP to accompany its 1985 budget submission with a report on the applicability of this technology to NSA's requirements. The FLTC had attempted, at this meeting, to assemble representatives of all elements of the Community interested in this problem and to constitute a working group to prepare a report to you with recommendations to resolve this problem. [REDACTED] Chief of FBIS' Asia Branch, stated that FBIS had been tasked in 1980 to investigate the problem of the acquisition and translation of [REDACTED] documents. There are at least 9000 such publications in [REDACTED] and FBIS has subscriptions to some 300 of them. However, it is faced with a scarcity of competent translators of Japanese who must be at the "5" or native fluency level to meet FBIS's rigid requirements for finished, literate translations. An effort is now being made to supplement the translators available to FBIS in Washington, with people [REDACTED] who will be working under the direction of an FBIS officer there. Although the number of translators hired thus far may quadruple

Attachment D

current output, a massive backlog of documents awaiting screening and/or translating remains. There is, perhaps, hope in a technological breakthrough represented by [] but this technology is not yet available. Even if technological help should be forthcoming, FBIS is faced with a most serious problem of maintaining the morale of its human translators who fear that should FBIS move to Machine or Machine-Assisted Translations, they would be relegated to the most boring and menial work of editing, etc. In concluding his presentation, [] emphasized that for any form of MAT suitable for his needs, machine readable input is essential. Other participants agreed.

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2. [] Chairman of the Information Handling Committee (IHC), stated that the importance of Japanese S&T documents to the United States will grow "by leaps and bounds". The IHC has a charter to facilitate the automation of all aspects of intelligence processing and will lend whatever assistance it can to the problem of Japanese S&T documents. Even though we are successful in adapting some form of machine-assisted translation to these documents, human assets will still be needed.

3. Representatives of the Air Force's Foreign Technology Division (FTD), the Naval Intelligence Support Command (NISC), NSA, and CIA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) reported on the work being done in their organizations on MAT. Mr. Arthur Corte (State), who is familiar with industry's needs for and experimentation with MAT, pointed out that Europeans are faced with essentially the same problem as are the Americans and that it would be useful to learn what progress they have made in this field.

4. An FBIS representative advised that CIA had commissioned, on behalf of FBIS, a "JASON" study to assess whether a new generation of Machine Translation systems will satisfy their requirements or whether "they should support some effort in a direction not now being pursued. This study will consist of a survey and analysis of R&D activity (in the United States, Europe, and Japan) in artificial intelligence/natural language processing. The result of this effort will be a report and briefing identifying centers of this activity, the barriers to and shortfalls in the development of an efficient, accurate MT system, recommendations for FBIS-supported development directed toward overcoming these barriers, and the prospect of achieving such a system". The Chairman, speaking for the group, welcomed this development, expressed the hope that CIA would make known to the JASONS the work presently being done in this field by the Intelligence Community, and that the JASONS would, when addressing the problem of the FBIS, take into account as well, the requirements of other elements of the Defense, Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence Communities. He informed participants that ORD has already agreed that [] would be available to chair a working group to address this problem and asked those present to advise the Executive Secretary of their willingness to participate in such a group.

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5. That working group is presently being constituted and will act as a bridge between the Community and the JASONS to ensure that the latter are apprised of work presently being done in the Community and that their efforts will, within their stated terms of reference, serve, to the greatest degree possible, the needs of the Community as well as those of the FBIS. We shall keep you informed of developments.



25X1

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

FLTC-019-83
8 July 1983

Foreign Language
Training Committee

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
VIA: Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff
FROM:
Chairman
SUBJECT: FLTC Monthly Report--June 1983

25X1

1. On 9 June, the Executive Secretary of the FLTC, the Chairman of the Information Handling Committee, and the Director of the IC Staff's Planning and Policy Staff attended a meeting of Community representatives concerned with the application of modern technology to the teaching, learning, and translation of foreign languages. The meeting, sponsored by the FLTC's Technology Subcommittee, agreed that working groups should be established to consider such specialized problems as Machine Translation (MT) and Machine Assisted Translation (MAT) (both for Japanese and other languages), the acquisition from private industry, academia, and government of dictionaries which could be used or modified by the Intelligence Community for MT and MAT, and the evaluation of systems for Computer Assisted Instruction and Computer Assisted Study of foreign languages. These working groups will coordinate their activities with government departments outside the Intelligence Community and with private vendors and academia through such organizations as the Inter-agency Language Round Table and the Department of Defense-University Forum.

2. The Executive Secretary attended a meeting of the Department of Defense-University Forum hosted by the Foreign Language Center (FLC) of the Defense Language Institute (DLI) at the Presidio of Monterey in California. There were two principal items on the agenda: (a) the status of the U.S. Army's contract with the Association of American Universities (AAU) to investigate the status of foreign language and area studies in American Universities and other academic institutions; (b) the proposal by the National Security Council (NSC) and the National Council on Foreign Language and International Studies to establish a "National Council on International Research and Manpower." Both these items are of concern to the Intelligence Community and have been the subject of memoranda to you and the D/ICS.

Attachment D

SUBJECT: FLTC Monthly Report -- June 1983

3. Partially as a result of the IC Staff's representations to the Army and other DoD elements, the AAU contract has now been so restructured as to meet all our concerns. The primary task of the AAU contract, to conduct research into the status of language and area studies in this country, is being carried out by a group of eminent scholars with expertise in the Soviet Bloc and Third World areas under the direction of Dr. Richard Lambert, Head of South East Asia Studies at the University of Illinois. The final report will not be issued for several months, but preliminary findings would indicate that university administrators are generally committed to foreign language and area studies programs; their subordinates, however, are less confident and fear that a reduction in the Department of Education's "Title VI" funding for regional centers for area and language studies might seriously curtail graduate studies in these fields. Although graduate departments in economics and sociology seem disinterested in international concerns, this is not apparently, true, for political science. Researchers were generally impressed with the quality of graduate students in foreign language and area studies.

4. The interaction between researchers in the field of foreign language and area studies and government policymakers varies widely. The relationship of government funding for academic research to policymaking is a "double-edged sword" with some academicians fearing that, should the fact of government funding become known, the entree of scholars to field research, particularly in the Third World, might be severely curtailed. Representatives of both the universities and the government at this meeting tended to agree that government funding, if granted, must not be concealed by some flimsy "cover" and that the source of funds must be openly acknowledged, if not widely broadcast. At present there is no unanimity on this matter and academia's views on DoD or other government funding run the gamut from resistance to enthusiasm.

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6. Dr. Robert Ward, Director of the Center for Research in International Studies at Stanford University, briefed the meeting on the background of the proposal to establish a National Council on International Research and Manpower. Participants at the Monterey meeting, many of whom had attended the 28 April White House meeting, were, on the whole, skeptical of the desirability and feasibility of creating an umbrella organization under NSC sponsorship to effect proper coordination between government and academia for the funding of research in language and area studies of mutual interest to scholars and policymakers. The academic community feared that NSC or other government sponsorship might be misconstrued by the academic community as well

SUBJECT: FLTC Monthly Report -- June 1983

as by the governments of many countries in which American scholars do their field research. Participants were generally of the view that it would be best, for the present, to utilize existing mechanisms for government-academic cooperation rather than create a new organization. Moreover, it was feared that, should the Congress or the Administration grant the funding needed for a new organization, it might be at the expense of existing programs such as the Title VI regional study centers. It was finally agreed that the representatives of the academic community would discuss this matter further amongst themselves in an attempt to define a common position which could then be referred to the government representatives in the DoD-University Forum.

7. There was considerable discussion of the establishment by government agencies of proficiency standards to measure and test foreign language skills in reading, speaking, listening, and writing. A working group of the Interagency Language Round Table has been instrumental in establishing commonly understood and accepted levels of proficiency and standard tests against which these levels can be measured. As a result, a CIA attestation that an employee who has attended its Foreign Language School and attained a "2 plus" level in speaking Gulf Arabic would convey immediately to managers in NSA, the FBI or State (for example), the exact degree of that employee's competence according to commonly agreed standards. Such proficiency testing has not been commonly adopted on the campus and where testing does take place, standards vary. The representatives of universities and such organizations as the MLA and CAL welcomed the government initiative in establishing common standards for proficiency and testing and hope to benefit from the work which the ILR has done. In response to this need, the DLI is establishing a two-week training course for university personnel in the methodology of language training.

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